

P.S. Please read this &
then burn it. My hand
won't let me write properly
when I hurry & I hate my 55 Powell Street West,
scribbled & disjointed letters
for others to see.
I mean that. Please oblige.

Ocean Grove,

Victoria 3226.

8th December 1968.

Dear George & Shirley,

I'm sorry I cannot manage to write at length, but wish to do as the P.M.G. request, post early.

I do hope you will forgive me for not answering your last letter George for I did so appreciate it. Many times I hope to find something of interest for you tre snaps ek, but I hardly know what to pick out. Your Father had so many, & I do not know if I have anything different from the ones Nance may have given you. Please tell her I do hope she will give you the one I sent to your Father the week before he left us. The one of the Surfboat of the old

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"Lady Lock", with Capt. Bolger, First Mate
Mr Grace, a light-house engineer & his wife,
& some crew members pulling in near
big rocks in Oberon Bay. It is only a
cutting from a good book, but so very
interesting to anyone like yourself.

It may still be in a Paper roll as I posted
it. Don't be afraid to ask Nance, she
wont mind I am sure.

Did I show you a brooch I had made
out of a Presentation Medal given to my
Dad. I had a look at it, & it could be altered
again if the pin is removed & the ring
put into place as it used to be. The
wording & date etc is very clear & definite,
& of course the name & initials very correct.
If you wish to have it George let me know
& also say when I am to post it, for I
want to register it when you will be
* home to receive it. Money couldn't buy
* (I don't want to post if you are)
 " (on holidays in NSW or elsewhere)

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a thing like that of course, & I want to be careful. If you do wish to have it I will leave it for you to see about the alterations at a reliable jeweller. I would have to go into Geelong twice to see about it.

Is there any one particular member of the relatives photos missing in your list? Let me know & I'll help if I can.

I have an old letter from Government House sent to my Dad, but unfortunately they spelt the name Stephens. It is a letter of thanks for photographs & shells Dad sent to His Excellency & Lady Talbot on May 27. 1908.

I value this very much, but you may have it if you will make good use of it.

Shirley dear I'm sorry I rambled on & left you out of the picture. I do hope you, the children are well, & that you will have a lovely Christmas.

How is your dear Mother these days? Please send her my love. I must close as I am not the best.

I tire quickly with this old kidney trouble.

With many thoughts & love from Aunty Robbie.

55 Powell Street West,
Ocean Grove,
Victoria 3226.
29 December 1968

Dear George & Shirley,

It was so nice
to see you on Friday, but time was
short when there was so much
to say. Every now & then I think
of things I wished to ask. Being
alone so much I find I miss out
on hearing particulars, & then
I can't link up as it were.

For example Shirley, you said
Matthew is like your brother &
now I am wondering where the
resemblance is strongest. I am also
curious to know what your brother
does. Do you think Matthew may
follow in his foot steps? My mind
switches from one thing to another.

As I look at my nice new Photo
I follow the eyes of both children.

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New Year so I won't have time to write very much. I must prepare several things to post tomorrow - must be quick, or I'll end up with the usual Migraine. No peace with the bad eye.

I'm so glad you are still very interested in your "Bobby" George. It is good for you. I say every one needs an interest apart from business, or even during retirement. My neighbour is retired & he bought himself a Type-Writer in Japan - does quite a lot of work for Church, & Bowls & Correspondence with over-seas friends. This gives him a change from the backyard chores, & gardening etc. I won't have much left for you soon but will pass on dates etc if I find any. I loved seeing you. Everyone was proud of you, but I am the only one left here now, so I'll be prouder than proud. God bless you, you too Shirley. A Very Happy New Year to you. I hope 1969 will be Tops for you down the country, Shirley.

Just what were ² they looking at? Another thing I'd like to know is Which Sunday School do they attend? Somehow I have a feeling you are Presbyterian Shirley. Am I wrong? Doesn't matter much though for I feel we will all be one someday. It is so nice to know the children are being helped, & so nice for both of you to guide & help too.

The children had their anniversary at the Methodist Church lately, & it cheers me to see so many budding Church Members.

Our minister is ill today & a Local Preacher took the Service. He was even more wonderful than usual, & everyone enjoyed his stories. He reached all ages - & I must say that is an art.

There is only one chance of a delivery of mail in time for the

P.S. I owe Nance a letter, & will write soon.
I hope she & Jan are well.

55 Powell Street West,
Ocean Grove,
Victoria 3226.

21st January 1969

Dear George & Shirley,

You will no doubt wonder why I am writing again but I feel I'd like to ask you George if you would drop me a short note to let me know if you, Shirley, and the children are well. I was truly very worried, & still am as that nasty sickness is still in our district. People with children next door were very sick - those opposite are still often miserable - they & Mrs Hunter suffered with it weeks ago. They still get the nasty giddy turns. Mr Clarke over the fence, opposite my front door, was ill for days. One can't enjoy food

of any kind for weeks. The Torquay trouble spread all over the district.

That was sore throat & chest cough etc.

I did not get that I am thankful to say, for I suffer enough with my crippled arm, & now the arthritis is very painful in my left arm.

When you were down I was trying to make my legs go properly again. Sometimes I just have to stand & it is very awkward when someone thinks you should get a move on. I asked the Policeman not to "run me in" if he saw me in trouble. He is a nice man & he attends our Church so I didn't mind.

I know it is not nice to listen to grumbles, but if I don't speak no one understands. I'm truly growing old.

Please answer by return if possible, even
a Letter Card would do. When I am so much alone
I fret about being more helpful. You know I love you
all & would if I could. Love to everyone. Yours in ^{not} ~~the~~ Service
~~count~~, ~~service~~

28th August 1974

55 Powell Street West,
Ocean Grove,
Victoria, 3226
Australia.

Dear George & Shirley,

I hope you don't suffer a shock when you find this little note in your letter box.

There is very little to write about, & I have been trying to clear up my correspondence list. - this is the only way. As soon as the strikes are over, I feel not so thick in the head, I post a brief note to someone & hope it will be delivered, & not returned as my mail was from Queensland when George & Hazel were on holidays. I think you had better get into Parliament George & see if you can get us out of the big muddle in the country in general.

How are you all? Very well, & still enjoying New Zealand I trust. Did you have a very cold winter? We had many dull days, & the most rain for this time of the year for 27 years. Never have I worn so many clothes before. As I am not able to work properly, or go for my long walks, I have to wrap up more than usual.

So far there is nothing to report on my talked of change of abode. Things have started to move at The Queenscliff Community Health Centre, but neither

George or I know any particulars. The waiting list is high there, as it was at Grace McKeilar, so I must live one day at a time & trust someone will call me. Rev. Fletcher said he is sure all will work out nicely. What he knows I have no idea, but his words were comforting to me. All I want is to be settled while I am still mobile enough to care for myself.

You may be interested to know that Betty, Bob & Roger have just returned from a World Tour. Bob worked so hard he won the high honour of being the one chosen to receive the wonderful award. All three will benefit from seeing so much, & Roger will be helped with his education. While staying near Buckingham Palace they were all shocked to receive a bomb warning but "all clear" came within half an hour. They missed the terrible business at The Tower of London by two days only, so we all have much to be thankful for.

Three weeks ago George's brother Percy came over from New Zealand & they & Hazel came down one afternoon. It was good to see them, but our time was very short. Wilfred & Kiku may return from Rio De Janeiro soon. Their two years will be up before Christmas. Time won't permit me to write more. My love to you all & I hope you are happy Shirley. I guess I'd hardly know Matthew & Jenny now. I'd love a wee note if you have time please George. Yours lovingly,
Auntie Rubie.

P.S. You of course know about
the awful cyclone at Darwin.
The calamity at Hobart. I won't
dwell on it. We are all helping where
we are able. Some local families
lost everything at Darwin. They
were in the Navy & other important
positions. One little mother was at
church on Sunday evening. The Navy
man is still on duty.

Dear George & Shirley,

55 Powell St West,
Ocean Grove,
Victoria 3226 Australia.
7th January 1975.

Thank you George for keeping in touch so often.
It does me good to hear from you, & to know you are all
well. Your news of the transfer to Sydney was a surprise.
& I hope you & Shirley are pleased about it. Seeing you have
recently felt a small quake you may be quite glad.
I do hope I am able to catch you before you leave
Wellington, but if not I trust this little letter will be
forwarded. I have an idea you will enjoy a tour of
the South Island first, & if so I may be successful after
all. I am sorry you will have the upset, & hard work
of shifting from Melbourne, but I hope you will be
suitably settled, & happy in Sydney. Will you need to
sell the Melbourne home? If so I am sorry for you
have both worked hard to make it to your liking.
As for moving I wouldn't mind if I could wake up
& find I was safely in a new spot. Not that I wish
to lose my home, but I am tired of not knowing
what is to happen to me. There is still no news of
buildings being started at The Springs, Pt Lonsdale.

Even if I could buy a Unit it will be costly, & not much left out of the price I'd get for this house. One can so soon find there is nothing left to share with others, & I did want to remember several. However if I continue to be independent, & not a worry to others it will be helpful.

I did enjoy & value the help of a neighbour on Friday. He went to Geelong & purchased a blind for my bath-room window, & two cane, or Plastic type, blinds for my lounge-room on the west side. Mr. Hunter also fitted them, & I only had to pay for the blinds, & had no extra expense, or shopping to do. In years gone by I could have attended to this myself, but not now. Isn't it nice to know we still have Christian people around?

I do wish to thank you for my Christmas gift. How very lovely my Moccasin Slippers are. Did you make them Shirley? If so, I think you are very clever. I will enjoy wearing them later when I am free of bandages. All my friends think the Moccasins are beautifully made, so do I. Thank you very much again, & by the way did you post me a very beautiful Calander. I can't read the post mark, as the address was printed I don't know if it is from you, or Percy my stepson. If you did send it I wish to thank you ever so much. The pictures are just glorious. Please give my love to Matthew & Jenny & I wish them well in 1975 where ever they attend school. No more this time. I hope all works out well for you both, & I'll be pleased to hear from you, maybe see you later. God bless you always
 Yours ever
 Shirley

55 Powell St West,
Ocean Grove,
Victoria 3226,
11th September 1975.

Dear George Shirley,

Please don't think I did not enclose a little note with the cuttings I posted. I did, but changed my mind, took it out thinking I'd have to pay letter rate. However I am no further ahead as I now know it makes no difference with the new postal rate.

However here I am with just a few minutes to spare before Jacky clears the corner Box. — Since I last wrote I felt I should mention to you George, that if you can send me a copy of one of the Photos, or even two, would you please write on the wrapper in big letters "To be called for". I will go to the Post Office & collect it. I am very

much afraid our young Posty may not be careful, - I'd hate to find the contents were spoilt. As I said before there is no hurry at all, but now I have mentioned this you may think it advisable to drop me a line some days earlier, so I'd know when to expect the packet. I do hope you don't mind me troubling you. I will have it to you to tell me if it may help to just pack between card board, & then have the mounting done here.

Thank you very much. It is so nice to be able to ask you questions, even if you send a note with No! No! written on it.

My poor old head gets in a whirl these days. I still don't know what I am to do. There has been suggestions lately that I should go to Grace Mc Kellar in Leelong. Both the Minister, - Doctors, don't think the Units near Pt Lonsdale will be built for about four years now. I wish someone

would make up their minds for them.

I won't say more at present - I will let you know if arrangements are made later.

Nothing is calm even with the Government these days, & I don't know if my home should be sold now, or later. I'll just wait for a while until the Minister calls again. He said he will look into a few things, as he thinks I have not had proper medical attention, & doesn't want worse treatment to follow. Lots of things have been uncovered lately, & some people have suffered.

Sorry about all this babble Shirley, but I know you will excuse me, & later on I'll hope to have brighter news. I trust all is well with you all. We have a most lovely day today, & my washing is dry. I must post, & gather in the clothes before the Magpies & Wattle Birds visit the clothes-line.

Lots of love to everyone. Please excuse my hasty scrawl. Yours lovingly,

Aunty Ruthie.

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My reason for sending this is to try & help Matthew to learn a little about our departed relations.

I think it best to tell you George, when you have time you may find a fresh point of interest to add to yours, it would be nice to explain to Matthew.

Lately Gladys Peter-Budge - sister to Ted Daws wrote & asked if you finished the Family Tree. If so she would also like some help with hers, if you have anything fresh to report. I know you helped each other some time ago.

I will write a few particulars, you may see an odd item of interest. Only Stevens family now, later Daws family if you need my poor help.

Your Great Grandpa William Stevens was born in Sussex England in 1829. Can you imagine he would be 151 years old now. He went to the Crimean War in 1854 when he was 25 years old. I always thought he was in the Navy as Grandma had beautiful flags worked in silk & framed, as a child I remembered her saying "Men at sea like to do fine work when not on duty". Could you ask the British Navy if lists of crew members were kept. Matthew may like to enquire.

Great Grandpa Stevens was badly wounded,

nearly lost his leg. When well enough he came to Australia, & met & married Great Grand ma at Belfast which has now reverted to its former title of Port Fairy. I have a small Book about it, but can't wait to read it again now.

Great Grandma Stevens was born in London England, her maiden name was Susan Davis. She was born in 1837 and died on 25th October 1911.

They had a family of five.

Emmily, George, Annie, Maud and Arthur.

My cousin Emmily married, & had a daughter Florry, and two sons William and Arthur.

I know very little of this family as their mother Emmily died quite young. Grandpa Grandma, Aunty Annie, & Aunty Maude cared for them until they grew up. We were too young to know much, & I don't even remember having even seen them, but Aunty Maud & Aunty Ann often spoke about them in their letters to us.

Did you notice I spell Maud two ways. It was Maud for many years, & then she altered it to Maude. Why I never heard. Something official I think.

For days I have thought, & thought, & could not recall Aunty Emmily's li name. I always felt

They were still Stevens, but it could not be seeing Emmily married. Any way when I was half awake yesterday morning I suddenly said, Arthur Anderson several times, & felt I had found the answer. I hope I am right.

Arthur Anderson was a soldier in the 1914-1918 war, & lost his arm, but returned to Australia when he was well enough, & brought home a War Bride from Scotland. She was a good wife & helped Arthur run a Poultry Farm. I have an idea her name was Mary.

I know nothing of Will I am sorry to say.

After Aunty Maude died here in Geelong, my Uncle Arthur went over somewhere near Sydney & lived with Cousin Arthur & his wife until Arthur suddenly died as he was working.

I don't know what happened then. Mary may have gone back to Scotland, or she and Uncle Arthur may have gone into Nursing Homes.

I think you know all particulars about my Mum & Dad. Your Granddad was George Frederick William Stevens Born 6 March 1866 at Belfast Is Vic (Port Fairy) Died 4 Nov 1944

He married Emma Daws born 23rd Oct 1869 at Kingston Vic. They married at parents residence 19th Oct 1893 at "Harlington" Spencer Crescent, Camberwell. Your Grandma (It is East Camberwell now) Died 19 Jan 1959.

55 Powell St West,
Ocean Grove,
Victoria 3226.
17 July 1977.

Dear George & Shirley,

Where ever has half of the year 1977 gone to? May be to the North Pole seeing we have had Southerly Gales lately. I have done so little in the way of work I feel ashamed.

As soon as the Fire Ban was lifted I managed to tidy up a bit, & just as well for the very extreme winter set in suddenly, & I remained in doors most of the time.

When I last wrote I was not well, but later became very ill for weeks, & I struggled on alone, because the Doctor did not treat me properly I lost 2 stone in weight. However I am about right now, except for the arthritis. While I was ill, cousin Gwen was also very bad. She lived at Surfers Paradise. Suddenly I received word that the poor dear had died in her sleep on 1st June. So sad to know she was alone. Thelma wrote & said the other sister Mansell & husband Len had called to see Gwen as they were on a tour, & they thought Gwen looked well.

although uneasy as she was waiting for a Unit in a Church Home. The very next day Thelma received the news of Gwen's passing. It was such a shock to her. I forwarded the news to several, but some are still absent from home. Such a lot of people go North at this time of the year.

So often I wonder how you & yours are. I do hope you have gathered strength George, & been free of a repeat of your troubles. And what about you Shirley dear? Busy & well I trust, and able to cope with extras for Matthew, Jenny & their pals.

It is a wonderful satisfaction to me, to at last have the sewerage contract finished. From the first time arrangements were made, until everything was passed by the inspector, it took 9 months. Rather awful for me when I was ill & never knowing when workmen would return, but I suppose I'll need to be busy counting my blessings.

Some folk here were muddled up for 2 years, many thousands still waiting in Geelong & Melbourne.

Twelve months ago my account would have been about \$500.00 but with an extra Stainless Bin the cost of all was \$1369.20. Do you wonder I wished the work had been started earlier? It is very good

To know I will be free from the nasty task of cleaning out the Grease Trap now. It was getting beyond me now the arms are so locked up. I nearly had to get into the Trap to remove the grease.

How nice it must be for you both to have your home so well set out, everything looking so smart. All I hope is that you are well enough to enjoy everything.

This is Sunday evening - I am in the kitchen with the pad on my knee. I use my radiator, & keep both doors shut.

Hood is out of the question for the Lounge Room fire place. Brigarettes have gone up in price to \$2.60 per bag, there is no heat in them. The chap who delivers has neglected me, & my bin is empty. I'll need to call him tomorrow. Many new buildings are going up - he, Brian, clears blocks & prepares for concrete foundations with his "Bob-Cat". I'm just nobody.

Monday. No rain, but still very cold, & I long to see the sun pop out. It may about 12 o'clock. My Dad always looked for a decided change at that hour.

I won't chat on any longer as I have very little to talk about. All I wish is that this will find you all well & happy. Best of wishes to Matthew & Jenny for a successful time in study at School, & in music etc.

With many thoughts & love to you all. Yours lovingly,

Hunny Rubie.

55 Powell St West,
Ocean Grove 3226
1st October 1978.

Dear George & Shirley,

Several letters need to be answered, but yours must be done first. I was ever so delighted to receive your nice letter George. Thank you very much for giving me so much news, which I often re-read, but have not been able to settle to writing. Many people here have been ill with a strange sickness, & of course I had to take part in every branch of it. The Doctors have been truly anxious as some nearly died, & others did pass away very suddenly. Some say we had the new Russian Flu, last week's papers said the germ came from Outer Space (how anyone knows I can't imagine.) Any way the symptoms were all through the body, & bad breathing put a heavy strain on the heart, we Angina

people found it hard to stay alive. No need
to diet as we all lost weight, & strength,
& even now we only feel like taking a sparrow's
meal. Friends came over from Pakenham
a fortnight ago to see me, as they have two
tiny children I advised them not to come in.
I was sad about it, but the young mother did
understand as she is a Nursing Sister.

Mal & Helen lived opposite for some months
in "Cooinda Flats" - They spent a lot of time with
me. They are Church friends of Ted & Edna at
Doncaster. While here Mal was Shire Secretary,
& Helen was Theatre Sister at Geelong Hospital.
She was often called out at night, & I did
feel anxious, for she was alone.

Talking of sickness makes me feel there is
no end to it. Weeks ago my George & Hazel
were to leave for Queensland on a Saturday
& late on the Thursday evening Hazel took ill.
& she suffered a long illness, although she
was in Box Hill Hospital twice, St Vincents twice,

The Doctors & Specialists could not find the cause. She was indeed a very very ill girl, & George was very anxious. No news for a while, & I do hope Posty calls tomorrow. Hazel's sister from Clevac is helping, & Joy the other sister who lives next door to them does what she can, but she is not over strong. I sincerely trust Hazel will soon improve, & I just hope she & George will be able to enjoy a rest up North now the weather is improving. Ocean Grove has never endured such a long & severe winter.

This is only a brief bit of chatter my dears, so you will know why I have not written. I'd write on, but I must attend to all delayed correspondence, & then I hope to do better when I feel stronger, & can see, I think.

Tom & Joan have been to Perth & posted to me. They flew with 42 S.B.C. Retired Personal Association & joined up with an Australian Pacific Coach & visited many places, & worked their way home through old

Kalgoorlie, Madura, Ceduna, Port Augusta,
Murray Bridge and so on. What lovely trips
people enjoy now. I often wish I could join in.

I must go to bed now as my eyes are very
weak.

Monday 11am There is so much in your letter
George, ~ I find it best to not to refer to everything
at present. All I will say now is that I enjoyed
hearing so much of you, Shirley, Matthew, Jenny,
~ also through Nance I know you were in touch.
How nice. She hopes to fly down, ~ said she will try
~ see me. I think it is too much for her when she is
not well. Lately I don't plan anything as I never
know when I can be "On Deck". By now I should
have been in a Unit but so many things went wrong
Thank you again for offering to help me, but it
appears now one must wait until there are enough
Units for a very large Waiting List. My friend, a War
Sister said lately it may be better for me to wait
until a Nursing Home is built near the Health
Centre. She knows all my difficulties, ~ that

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There is little chance of improvement. One just has to live with Arthritis locking the joints. I do so miss being able to do heavy outside jobs. If I need anyone to sign papers etc., later on I will certainly let you know, & accept your kind offer George. There has been many upsets at the Health Centre in Queenscliff for 12 months, but I hope the newly elected Committee will be successful. As you said George, so many things are wrong with the laws of the Government, & men certainly expect too much an hour for what they do. I must say though the local Lions Club, & Apex do a wonderful job helping sick & tired people, I was given several bags of Briguettes. I can pay for them, but they just like being helpful. They try so hard to save our foreshore, & work like slaves, the tides come in during storms & wreck everything. I must close now & post. So much I could say will keep I hope. I do admire you all as a family & I am very proud of George Shirley, Matthew, Jenny. My love to everyone. Until next time God Bless.
Yours lovingly,
Aunty Rubie.

55 Powell St West,
Ocean Grove,
Victoria 3226
10th September 1979.

Dear George & Shirley,

It was nice to hear again from Matthew. Will you please thank him, tell him I'll try later on to answer. For a long time now I, & others, have suffered a nasty sickness which just won't clear. Pain in every bone in the body, & all through the system, food was like poison. No wonder we all lost weight, & goodness were we cold? Electric Blanket & Vulcan Heater scarcely made any difference. We had almost no winter rain, but the days were very dull, & the winds came from the South Pole.

How glad we are now with a little sunshine & lots of Spring showers. Soon I hope warmer air will ease the angina trouble, & let me be able to stoop, & work once again. I won't be

able to write at length, but was advised at the Post Office, to post & ask you if you received a parcel I forwarded to you both on 25th July. Mail was held up so long with the Strike, & judging by my friends, letters are weeks, or even months late now.

Mrs. Wm Jackson from Lonsdale went to Western Australia, & their son, & 3 daughters scattered from Perth to Darwin & other parts received Christmas Mail not long before Easter.

If you never receive the parcel you will know I did try to remember your Happy 25th, although I was so late. It is just a simple gift my dears. There is nothing to choose from here, & I am not able to visit Geelong.

I sent a Card separately the same day, & I am wondering if letters are slowly being delivered now, or are they buried under ones that were posted here during August.

I don't know the answer - but I must tell you I was too ill to think, & did not register the small parcel.

3.

Don't worry over an answer, unless you receive anything. If so, I'll be glad to tell the Post Master all is well if I hear from you later. So sorry there has been so much trouble.

We are to have a very nice new Post Office in time for the Christmas rush. Our usual Post Master is at present in charge of the Sorting Department at Geelong Post Office. I guess he has a busy time. Even here we have a winter population of 6,000 ~ in the summer it is about 20 odd thousand. Our P.O. will also deliver to all at Barwon Heads as well. The Posties will all use Motor Cycles to save time, their strength, & "Puff". The shopping centre is now "The Mall" One way traffic, very little parking, each end about 8 big Concrete Flower Boxes have been built in, & seats for comfortable reading & resting. The flowers grow very well, & look so bright. I enjoy the safe walking. I must close, pop into "Blanket Bay". My love to you all, & I do hope everyone is well. Until later, Best Wishes for happy Spring Days. Yours lovingly,
Aunty Rubie.

55 Powell St West,
Ocean Grove,
Victoria 3226
16th October 1979.

Dear George & Shirley,

I have waited for five weeks since I last wrote to ask if you received my parcel. Evidently it has not arrived, & I do wonder what could have happened. Not knowing until Matthews letter arrived with the news of the date of your Silver Wedding I naturally posted very late, & just when The Strike was on.

I am very sad about you not knowing I did wish to tell you I wished you both many more happy years, & evidently my Card was not delivered, or even the parcel.

Any way I am very sad about

3.

not forgotten to answer his
very nice letter with so much of
his work as well. I'll answer as
soon as I can.

Lately I have had a lot of Bills
to pay, & the worst was for Plumbing.
I had no pressure at all, & I did not
feel safe with summer on its way.
There would be no hope in case of
a fire.

I do hope to catch up on some
tasks soon. I'll never have a lovely
clean home like yours now Shirley.
I do wish I could be busy as you all
are. I just don't know how you do so
many things away from home as well.
How is "Shop" these days?

I was just going to finish this
& post, but I'll wait to tell you
Bunty Love wrote & told me her

2.

The loss of mail. I answered a letter
from Name the week before I posted
your gift. I have never heard a
word since. I do hope "Law & Order"
will be with us again in future.

Any way how are you all? Well
I hope, & I trust you lived through
the winter easier than a lot of us
here. We had little rain until
Spring, but for months the grey days
& cold winds kept us fighting one
ill after another. Even now I just
^{have} one attack of Angina after another &
my sight was very troublesome, held
me back on writing & reading. At
present I am using Lecogade to build
me up. One Chemist said I must get
my strength back. Most Doctors are
too busy to care much about "The
Oldies". Please tell Matthew I have

sisters daughter⁴ had lost her
husband Dr Nylie, & he was only
40 years old. Very sad for them all
& Poppy will feel for dear Jill. The
next day Love received word to say
her other sister Ada Wallis had died.
Do you remember her, & her late
husband Lionel, George? So many
things I could say, but I can't
manage more today.

Lots of love & wishes to Jenny, & I
hope she is well & very happy.

All the best My Dears - With
Many Thoughts & love.

From Aunty Rubie

P.S. You will be interested to learn George that Ian has been recommended for promotion. I hope he Victoria 3226 is successful, but there is one appeal ^{against him.} 12th January 1980.

Dear Shirley, George, Matthew, Jenny,

Before I dare go to bed tonight I must endeavour to write to you. I do wish to thank you for my lovely Christmas gift. It is so very sweet & I keep wondering who hand painted it. The work is so delicate, one would think the flowers were freshly picked. You will be pleased Shirley to know that your very careful packing brought your gift safely to me. Not a sign of a mark, or crack anywhere. I will indeed value it, & think of you all as I handle it, or show it to my friends.

It was my intentions to catch up with all correspondence much sooner than now, but I am still in a muddle. In some cases I have no addresses of Clubs, or Church

²
Groups who remembered me. These I will collect after the holiday season is over as then I'll be able to discover who is in Office.

Previously I told you there were some relations, also friends who had been ill. I am sorry to say that in some cases there are no improvements even now. I keep in touch when my ills allow me.

Recently Nance has been in hospital for nasty tests, but managed to crawl back to Sunty Hazel for a little rest. I do hope for a good report soon. Annette, her Mum, & Nance hope to have a weeks rest up at Wooloolabah starting on 19th Jan. How Nance could face it I just don't know, as she just rattles with antibiotics etc.

My George & Hazel opened their mail in hospital. Hazel has been miserable for a long time now. She hoped to be home for Christmas Dinner, but had to return a few hours later. I do hope she will soon

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gather strength, if the best operations
tell the surgeon satisfactory answers.

Joan Davis has come along nicely since
her delicate operation, & she can now
manage without "Home Help", & cooks simple
meals which she can now eat, so that is
a lot to be thankful for. Neville is very
delighted to see Joan so much better.

I think Aunty Love is at Lonsdale for a
little while - if so it is no wonder we
have had an awful change in the weather.

Poor Aunty Love can't move, but what it
rains inches - & it surely did yesterday as
Point Lonsdale had the top rain-fall for
Victoria. Betty will be with Love as her Bob
& their son Roger are away on holidays.
It gives Bet a rest, & she is company for Aunty
Love who can't travel alone now.

The weather has been most extreme since
Friday, but we are promised a calm & mild
day tomorrow. As I sit & write I have put

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on my Vulcan Room Heater, on low I must
say, as I am smothered all over my body
& arms with a rash. I get it each year
about this time. I wish I knew the
cause. Not too much fruit as I eat very
little. It is terribly dear, & most of my own
home grown plums I have given away.
They are a lovely sample, & sick friends are
pleased to receive some. Two who like them
very much, are young Black-birds (Females)
who were born in a nest their Mum & Dad
built in the Garage just above the window,
season before last. Two of a family each year.
They are very quiet, & one nearly sat on my
shoe one day, & finished her plum as I slowly
picked some.

As time is later than I thought I must close.
I hope to post several letters on Monday so I'll
try & sleep now, & get busy in the morning after I
view a service, or listen in. Once again many thanks
to you all for my precious gift. Lots of love until later.
From Aunty Rubie.

Gladys was Mr Peter-Budge,
a double name. When Will died
she dropped the Peter & just uses Budge
unless on Official Papers.

55 Powell St West,
Ocean Grove,

Victoria 3226

31st January 1980

Dear George & Shirley,

I must write a few words
to enclose with information I have thought
of, & written for you in case you, & Matthew are
still interested in making a kind of
Family Tree as you were when asking Gladys
for dates etc. The following pages will explain,
about the Stevens Family. If you want other
dates etc I'll try & find them. I can find a
little about the Daws Family, but not much.
I'll leave it to you George, but I feel you know
far more than I do. Hope I have not wasted
my time, & yours too. I'll finish this tomorrow as
my hand is very tired. We had a Black Out today
& there may be one again tomorrow. I set the
Hot Water system going in readiness to wash
extras, & I wasted my Briguettes. No joke now
as I have to pay \$3.70 per bag. I wouldn't mind
if I could do a lot of scrubbing etc, but my silly
heart plays up, & I just gasp. I'm a poor old girl now.
Calm weather may be with us, heat too as February.

2.

will start before I get to bed if I don't pack up at once. We had a few very hot days, but the most of January has been extreme, and most disappointing. Calm for a few hours, & then a high cold wind off the Ocean. The sand just nearly blinds people at the beach. Schools start shortly. I guess the days will be hot once again, & the children will miss the warm waves & the lovely wide beach. High fire danger is expected tomorrow, so you see we get a mixture.

1st Feb 1980 Another matter about Great Grandpa, to you, came into my memory suddenly - I had forgotten - I may have told you before. He was taught to be a Tailor & was very clever, & made all Suits & Costumes for the whole family. He also made boots, & even made the high buttoned up ones. Where else would he be taught, but in the Navy. This may help you to find a link more easily.

Well I won't say more now. My old head is not much good now. Can you wonder seeing I have turned 80 years. Later I'll try & write Shirley & change the subject a bit. I don't wish to tire you. I hope you keep well, & enjoy life. The Paper I'm posting I trust may be of interest to Matthew & Jenny also. My love to you all, & Best of Wishes.

Yours lovingly,
Aunty Ruttie.